A Lyttel Booke of Nonsense

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A Lyttel Booke of Nonsense

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mdccccxxv

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To the Reader

FEW of the cuts in this book are less than four hundred years old. To join them to new occasions need be no slur on their value and beauty, if the rhyme be taken as lightly as it is offered by a lover of old things as well as new, who is indebted to *Meſsrs Quaritch*, *Leighton*, *Barnard*, and others, for much more than is here to be seen, as also to *Edward Lear*.

R. D.

Chelsea, *mcmxij*.

¶ Since this was written, one or two newer occasions have arisen which it is hoped will be as kindly received as the others have been.

R. D.

Chelsea, *mcmxxv*.

A Lyttel Booke of Nonsense

I

There was a young fellow of Sark,
Who wandered about in the Park;
When the constable said
He'd be better in bed,
He replied, "I'm afraid of the dark."

2

There was an old man of Sheerness,
Who invited a friend to play chess;
But he'd lent all the pieces
To one of his nieces,
And stupidly lost her address.

3

There was an old fellow of Trent,
Who sold little boxes of scent;
But they said to him "Smell them
Yourself ere you sell them!"
Which made him feel far from content.

4

There was an old person of Box,
Who tried to jump over the rocks;
But they said "Poor old feller,
He has come a smeller,
And look at the holes in his socks!"

5

There was a young fellow of Treves,
Who met with a watery grave;
There was nobody nigh
To attend to his cry
As he sank 'neath the swallowing wave.

6

There was a young fellow of Cadiz,
Who said "What a blessing Free Trade is;
But it's not my ambition
To turn politician —
So let's go and talk to these ladies."

7

There was a young lady of Stone
Who was trying to ride like Tod Sloan;
When a brute of a bee
So bewildered her gee
That she barely escaped being thrown.

8

There was a young fellow of Brill,
Who supported the Parliament Bill;
Though he'd larger ideas
For reforming the Peers,
And suggested a shorter way still.

9

There was an old fellow of Derry,
Who loved to see everyone merry;
So he asked them to tea
At a mulberry tree,
And gave them some excellent sherry.

DK

10

There was a young fellow of Kansas,
Who couldn't remember the Lancers;
When he'd got half way through
He'd forget what to do,
Which flummoxed the rest of the dancers.

11

There was a young fellow of Sherborne,
Who would go to church in a turban;
When they put him outside
He politely replied
That he thought their ideas were suburban.

12

There was an old person of Reading,
Who went to his granddaughter's wedding;
When asked for a present
He tried to look pleasant,
But said "This is what I was dreading."

13

There was a young housemaid of Ashdown,
Who strained herself pulling the sash down;
Being duly insured,
She was months being cured,
But the doctor insisted on cash down.

14

There was an old girl of Carstairs,
Whose villa required some repairs;
When she asked if the plumber
Could finish next summer,
He said he should be there for years.

15

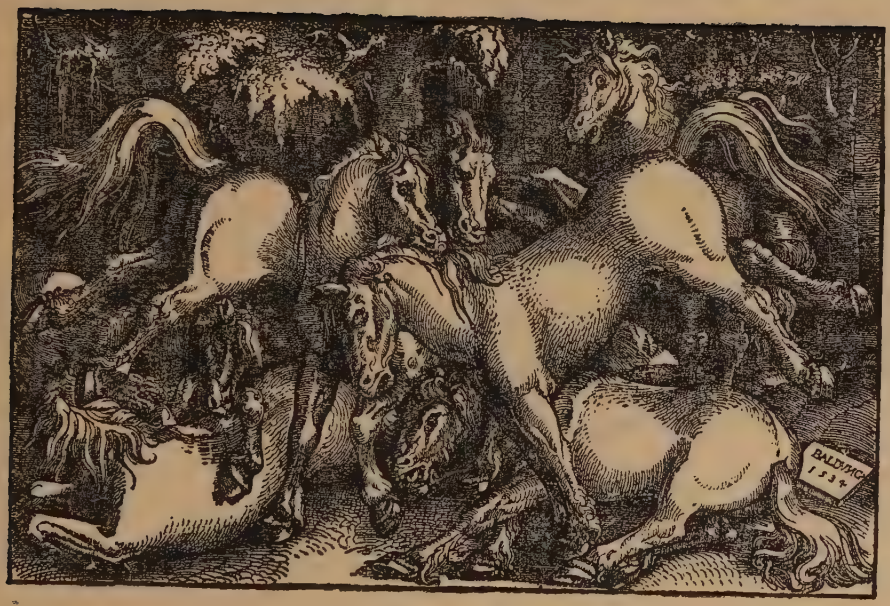
There was an old lady of Strines
Who used to do Costume designs,
Till the fashions to-day
Led her models to say
That she really must pull down the blinds.

16

There was an old man of Baroda,
Who said, "I perceive a bad odour";
When they said, "is it faint?"
He replied, "No, it ain't,"
So they fetched him a whiskey and soda.

17

There was a young fellow of Biscay,
Who gave all his horses some whiskey;
Which resulted in some
Being quite overcome,
And others decidedly frisky.


BALDUNG
1534

18

There was an old fellow of Shere,
Who wanted to act Chanticler;
To say that his dress
Was a brilliant success
Would be saying as much as we dare.

19

There was a young fellow of Balmer,
Who always went hunting in armour;
When no one could think
Why he'd given up pink
He said "Haven't you met the old farmer?"

20

There was a young man of Dunblane,
Who was seized with a horrible pain;
When his wife asked him "Where?"
He replied "Somewhere here;
I must never touch muffins again."

21

There was a young man of New Cross,
Who rode a most marvellous horse;
As it couldn't be matched,
All the others were scratched,
And he simply walked over the course.

22

There was a young fellow of Belvoir,
Who in love was a firm disbeliever;
But on going to the Castle
To take them a parcel,
He caught the insidious fever.

la tour dargent
Jupiter

23

There was a young lady called Pippa,
Who wanted to play Hunt the Slipper;
She said she'd prefer
Their removing the spur,
For fear that the rowel might nip her.

24

There was a young man of Lepanto,
Who started to teach Esperanto;
But they said, "it's too much,
We would sooner learn Dutch,"
And told him to pack his portmanteau.

25

There was a young lady called Mabel,
Who hated a room with a gable;
If there wasn't another
She said, "Oh don't bother,
I'll sleep on the dining room table."

26

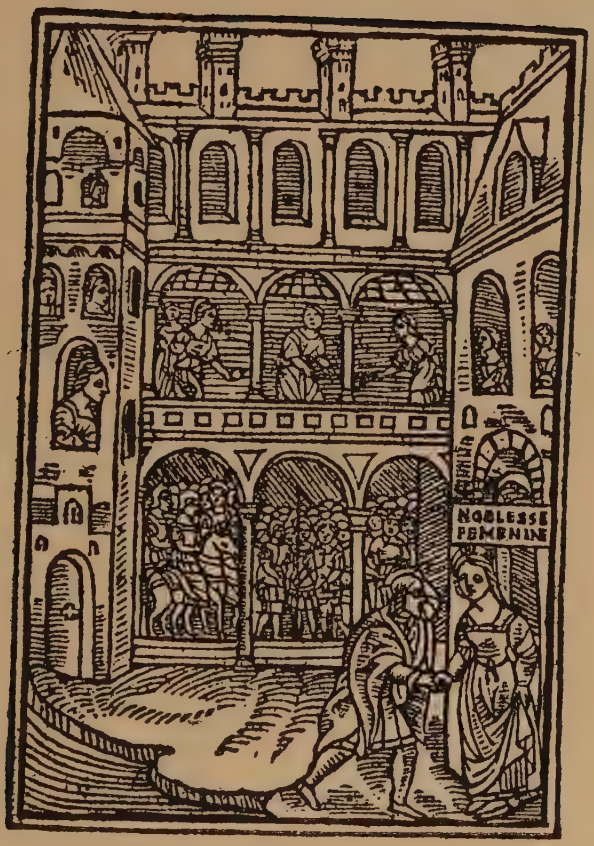
There was an old lady of Tong,
Who could never keep quiet for long;
Either lecturing mothers,
Free-Traders and others,
Or proving that Einstein was wrong.

27

There was a young man of Strathpeffer,
Whose uncle grew deafer and deafer;
When he asked after Mary,
He thought he said "dairy,"
And said, "She's a beautiful heifer."

28

There was a young lady of Rome,
Who got lost in the great Catacomb;
At the end of the week
She was found by a Greek,
Who insisted on seeing her home.


NOBLESSE
FEMENINE

29

There was an old man of the Wye,
Who said, "I could sit down and cry;
When the fish are all biting,
This d——d little whiting
Has swallowed my favourite fly."

30

There was a young fellow of Writtle,
A pupil of Dr. Dolittle.
He'd numerous pets,
That astonished the vets,
And a cow they called *High-diddle-diddle*.

31

There was an old man of Montrose,
Who discouraged his granddaughter's beaux;
When she asked them to call
He said nothing at all,
Or caught them a whack on the nose.

32

There was an old fellow of Tweeddale,
Who played on the flute and the fiddle;
But made such a din
That the neighbours came in,
And made him leave off in the middle.

33

There was a young man of Spithead,
Who never could get enough bread;
Till he married a wife,
Who restored him to life,
For she made it herself—so she said.

34

There was a young lady of Garth,
Who was just getting into the bath,
When her mother said, "Nelly,
You must eat this jelly,
You're getting as thin as a lath."

35

There was a young damsel of Ore,
Who tickled a fool with a straw;
Quoth the fool, "How it tickles,
I can't eat my victuals,
Oh, don't make me laugh any more!"

36

There was a young fellow of Raby,
Who behaved like a regular gaby;
When he went to the castle,
To call for a parcel,
He wanted to dandle the baby.

37

There was a young man of Belgrade,
Who used to catch fish with a spade;
When he'd caught three or four,
He would fling them ashore,
Where he fried them in warm lemonade.

38

There was a young fellow of Hawarden;
Who entreated his visitors' pardon;
The boiler had cracked
(As a matter of fact)
So he brought them some lunch in the garden.

39

There was an old fellow of Lee,
Who hid himself under a tree;
But when winter came round
He was easily found,
For the leaves had come off — don't you see?

40

There was an old lady of Lee,
Who thought that her Chow had a flea:
She was so much afraid,
That she rang for her maid;
But the butler said, "Leave it to me."

41

There was a young sportsman, whose trouble
Was constantly seeing things double:
His dog and his ape
Took a duplicate shape,
And he noticed the same with the stubble.

42

There was an old man (of great age),
Whose daughters were both on the stage.
To the one who was Scotch
He presented his watch —
To the other a beautiful cage.

43

There was an old knight of New Cross,
Who was riding a troublesome horse:
But he said, "If he rears
I shall just box his ears,
Though I'd rather use kindness than force."

44

There was a young man of Southall,
Who went to a fancy dress ball:
Information we lack
As to how he got back —
Or whether he got back at all.

45

There was an old person of Leek,
Who believed in compulsory Greek:
As from being at college
He'd no other knowledge,
The reason was not far to seek.

46

There was a young man of Belgrade,
And this was a drawing he made:
People called it absurd,
Though the critics averred
That he must have been taught at the Slade.

47

There was an old lady of Wells,
Whose servants all went to make shells:
But she said "I don't care --
I can groom my own mare —
Though there's no one to answer the bells!"

48

There was an old lady of Nice,
Whose house was a haven of peace;
Till they all got so warm
Over tariff reform,
That they had to call in the police.

49

There was a young fellow of Sheen,
Who was trying to reach Gretna Green:
But he saw with impatience
That all his relations
Were bound to be first on the scene.

50

There was an old man of the coast,
Whose wife was as deaf as a post:
Unaware of his tread
As he staggered to bed,
Or the groans of the family ghost.

51

There was a young fellow of Pisa,
Whose wife was descended from Cæsar;
The shape of his feet
Made her joy incomplete --
But she valued his efforts to please her.

52

There was an old fraud in the City
Whose sentence excited no pity
Till everyone heard
His appeal was referred
To a mixed Parliamentary Committee.

53

There was a young lady of Shere,
Who was loved by an indigent Peer,
But she sacrificed rank
To share in a Bank --
About 35,000 a year.

54

There was an old man of St. Abbs,
Who wanted to buy a few crabs;
His annoyance was great
When they offered him skate,
And turbot, and haddocks, and dabs.

55

There was a young man of Seattle,
Whose brothers were killed in a battle;
He feelingly said,
"It's a pity they're dead --
But I shall inherit their cattle."

56

There was an old fellow of Quorn,
Who borrowed some dogs and a horn;
And what was still stranger
He purchased a Reindeer
And chased it all over the lawn.

57

The Lord Chamberlain, once on a day,
Was requested to license a play;
But he said, "If it's clever,
My answer is Never!"
And told them to take it away.

58

There was an old fellow of Parma,
Who purchased a new suit of armour;
When they said "Does it fit?"
He replied, "Not a bit --
Pray leave me until I am calmer!"

59

There was a young lady whose bonnet
Had many remarks passed upon it;
But she answered them, "Rats --
If you want to see hats
Look at these of my brothers' -- they're chronic!"

60

See here how the damsels of Spiers,
Await the return of their Squires;
At the long-looked-for hour
They wave from the tower,
And light all the drawing-room fires.

61

There was a young man with a yacht,
Who said, "Whether you love me or not,
You can hardly refuse
Just to come for a cruise"
But she fainted away on the spot.

62

There was an old person of Box,
Who never could find any socks;
So he put on his shoes
And his second-best blouse,
And danced a quadrille with a fox.

63

There was a young lady of Annan,
Whose father-in-law was a Canon;
But she gave up the Church
For artistic research,
And consorted with Ricketts and Shannon.

64

There was a young man of Newport,
Who was tried for a jester at Court;
But he frankly confessed,
After doing his best,
It was more of a job than he thought.

65

There was a young man of St. Gatien,
Who strongly believed in cremation;
And few could find fault
With a family vault
That contained every single relation.

66

There was a young fellow of Horta,
Who saw something strange in the water.
Preparing to dive,
He cried, "Bake me alive,
If it isn't the Coastguardsman's daughter!"

67

There was an old man of Peru,
Who took both his boys to the Zoo;
But when some silly goose
Let the animals loose,
He didn't quite know what to do.

68

There was an old man with a flute,
A serpent ran into whose boot;
He played day and night,
But it *didn't* take flight,
So he finally went for the brute.

69

There was a young fellow of Hawarden,
Who was practising golf in the garden;
But he said "If this fly,
Doesn't instantly die,
I'm sure I shall never beat Vardon."

70

There was a young student of John's,
Who always made friends with the dons;
He would ask them to dine,
Or to biscuits and wine,
With a dish of most excellent scones.

71

There was a young fellow of Sparta,
Whose wife was a regular tartar;
When his apathy shocked her
She went for the doctor,
And said, "He pretends he's a martyr."

72

There was a young man of Algiers,
Whose dog had been savage for years;
So he bought him a roll
(Which the brute swallowed whole),
And then gave him a box on the ears.

73

There was an old fellow of Tooting,
Whose favourite amusement was shooting;
When he wounded a bear,
And took aim at a hare,
They thought it was time to be scooting.

74

There was an old Lady of Box
Whose husband was put in the Stocks;
When she said "Are you snug?"
He said "Bring me a rug—
Or at any rate knit me some socks."

75

There was a young man who'd a pup,
Which he trained for the Waterloo Cup;
But though healthy and sound,
It would lie on the ground,
And firmly refuse to get up.

76

There was a young man of East Sheen,
Who invented a new Submarine;
And one trembles to think
(If he'd got it to sink)
What the fate of our fleet might have been.

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